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SUMMARY OF COMMENTARY IN PRAVDA ON SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
(February 29 - March 29, 1980)

April 1980

Prepared by the Federal Research Division of
the Library of Congress under an interagency agreement

Summary of Commentary in Pravda on Sub-Saharan Africa
(29 February-29 March 80)

Africa General

World Peace Council Meeting

(Summary) Daily articles covered the discussions of the World Peace Council [Soviet front organization with headquarters in Helsinki and affiliated groups in 120 countries] during its five-day meeting in Addis Ababa. The first day's agenda included topics such as the struggle in defense of detente and against the warlike preparations of Imperialism, strengthening the cohesion of the peace-loving countries, and supporting the national liberation movements in Africa. The Soviet representative, E. Fedorov, pointed out the threat to Africa posed by the network of military bases being set up by the US in and around that continent. (29 Feb 80, p. 5) Later on, he stated that the Soviet Union would not yield to American provocations and threats to peace but would oppose reckless imperialistic adventures to the stable and principled course of the USSR. (1 Mar 80, p. 5) Another member of the Soviet delegation, O. Charchardin, declared that the Imperialists have followed a predatory policy towards Africa characterized by aggression, blackmail, and economic boycotts. Soviet policy, on the other hand, was aimed at liberating the states of Africa from their colonial bondage--in both the old and new forms--and from racism and apartheid. (2 Mar 80, p. 5) Soviet comment on the Imperialists' tack in Africa went on to say that it was aimed at isolating the nations of Africa from their "natural allies." Other Council declarations called for the Indian Ocean to be made into a "Zone of Peace" and the African Continent to be made a "Non-Nuclear Zone." (3 Mar 80, p.5)

US Policy in Africa

Bases in Somalia and Kenya

(Text) Siyad Barre, President of Somalia, in an interview declared that his nation has never had any intention of permitting any foreign power to establish military bases on its soil, nor has any intention of allowing any in the future. He claimed not to have agreed to the establishment of a foreign base in Somalia but took the opportunity to express his desire for the elimination of all bases in the region.

In spite of these official disavowals, the American Administration, as is well known, has been applying heavy-handed pressure to the governments of Somalia, Kenya, and Oman to gain from them agreement for the establishment of military bases on their soil. It has been the American official line that these bases would be used as springboards for responses to extraordinary situations. (12 Mar 80, p. 5)

Angola

The Party's Role in National Life

(Text) A scientific symposium was held in Luanda, Angola, dedicated to the creative legacy of one of the most important leaders of the international revolutionary movement, distinguished state and political figures of Africa, founder

of the MPLA, and first President of the People's Republic of Angola--A. Neto. Participants of the symposium considered the problems surrounding the party's leadership role in constructing the groundwork of the Angolan state and its national reconstruction. The significance of Marxism-Leninism in the ideological inspiration of the masses was also discussed. The discussions were attended by workers from the Central Committee of the MPLA and students of national party schools and of Soviet Studies. (10 Mar 80, p. 1)

Angola

Moscow Meeting

(Text) On 26 March N. K. Baybakov, Deputy Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and Chairman of the USSR Gosplan [central economic planning agency], received Roberto de Almeida, Secretary of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola--Labor Party Central Committee and Angolan Minister of Planning, who is in Moscow, and discussed questions of mutual interests with him. (27 Mar 80, p. 4)

Chad

Fratricidal War Fanned From Outside

(Summary) The violence that has erupted in Chad is the direct result of the colonial policy of France in Africa. The current events in that country took place after the Chad government and public, and also certain neighboring African states, came out in favor of the withdrawal of the French Expeditionary Corps from the country. Despite numerous official statements to the effect that the French troops would leave the country, they are still there and in fact have been reinforced. This is because France wants to control Chad which it regards as an important strategic region, especially because of its natural resources of uranium and oil. (25 Mar 80, p. 5)

Congo

Cooperation Strengthened

(Text) "In the course of a visit to the Soviet Union, we were once again convinced that our Soviet friends are striving to widen and deepen the ties of friendship and cooperation that bind them with the People's Republic of the Congo on both state and party levels," declared the head of the Congolese Worker's Party on the return of his delegation from a visit to the USSR. During that visit the Congolese delegation met with members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and discussed questions dealing with the organizing of workers and the preparation and function of party cadre. They also participated in a scientific conference entitled "Ten Years of Struggle by the Congolese Worker's Party for National and Social Progress." And, finally, they met with officials from the Council for Mutual Economic Aid (CMEA) to explore the possibility of working with this organization. (12 Mar 80, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Soviet and Cuban Assistance to the Revolution

(Summary) More than 200,000 people gathered in Addis, Ababa to commemorate an Ethiopian victory over an Italian army in 1896. Mengistu Haile Mariam, President of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, compared this historical military achievement to the 1974 Revolution that launched Ethiopia on the path of Marxist-Leninist Socialist development. This victory, though, was made possible primarily due to the aid of the Soviet Union and Cuba that crushed the encircling powers of Imperialism. (4 Mar 80, p. 1)

Ethiopia

Following the Revolutionary Path

(Summary) The decision in December last year to create a commission for the organization of a party of Ethiopia's working people will advance the country along the Revolutionary path. The declaration on the establishment of the commission states that the Ethiopian revolution's aim can only be achieved under the leadership of a closely-rallied party of the working people armed with Marxist-Leninist theory. The creation of mass organizations--associations of urban residents and peasants, which became local bases of power and the champions of revolutionary ideas--the reorganization of unions, the organizational consolidation of women and young people, and the formation of a people's militia are the first stage of party building. (7 Mar 80, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Meeting With Soviet Defense Minister

(Text) D. Ustinov, Minister of Defense and member of the Soviet Politburo, met on 13 Mar with A. Tedla, a member of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council and Vice-President of the Supreme Council. They discussed a number of issues and their meeting took place in an atmosphere of friendship. Also participating in the talks were Marshal Ogarkov, the First Deputy Minister of Defense and Chief of the General Staff, and General Yepishev, Chief of the Main Political Directorate. The Ethiopian ambassador to the USSR, N. Taya, also was present at the meeting. (14 Mar 80, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Meetings in Moscow

(Text) B. Ponomarev, candidate member of the Soviet Politburo [his major responsibility as a Politburo member is to oversee that body's relations with foreign Communist or Socialist parties], and R. Ulyanovsky, Deputy Director of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, met with A. Tedla, a member of the Ethiopian Provisional Military Administrative Council and Vice-President of the Supreme Council. Their discussions centered around questions regarding organizing a revolutionary party of workers. The Ethiopian ambassador to the Soviet Union, N. Taya, also participated in the discussions which were held in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Later, A. Tedla met with the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, I. Novikov. Their discussion centered around the participation of Ethiopian athletes to this summer's Olympics being held in Moscow. The entire Ethiopian team, Tedla assured his host, will come to Moscow in July.

Finally, the Russian representative to CMEA met with Tedla, at his request, and discussed economic cooperation in a warm and friendly atmosphere. (15 Mar 80, p. 4)

Ethiopia

Aims of the Ethiopian Revolution

(Summary) "Justice, equality, peace, and social progress are the aims of the Ethiopian Revolution," declared Mengisitu Haile Mariam, Chairman of Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council. He went on to say that general progress can be achieved only on the basis of peace and emphasized that Ethiopia has never considered the military path the only way to resolve disputes. But faced with Imperialist expansionist designs, he stated that Ethiopia has no choice other than to strengthen its defense capability in every possible way to protect its revolution. (17 Mar 80, p. 5)

Lesotho

Soviet Relations with Lesotho

(Summary) "It was with deep satisfaction that Lesotho established diplomatic relations [1 Feb 80] with the USSR," declared the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Lesotho when a delegation of the Soviet Committee for the Solidarity of Asia and Africa visited Maseru, the capital. These relations are characterized by equality, respect for sovereignty, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries. These principles the West and the Republic of South Africa find annoying. He went on to say that armed provocation has been a major factor in his nation's relations with the "apartheid regime." By sending bandits into Lesotho, the Republic of South Africa obviously is in favor of intervening in the affairs of its neighbors. The South Africans are intent on liquidating the new government of Lesotho by this type of activity and installing a marionette regime. The reason for these South African activities is Lesotho's opposition to apartheid. Africa will only be free when this system is completely eradicated. (2 Mar 80, p. 1)

[A shorter, though very similar version of this story reappeared in Pravda on 17 Mar 80, p. 5]

Mauritius

Soviet Relations with Mauritius

(Text) The Mauritius-Soviet Friendship Society sponsored a party in Port Louis celebrating the friendly relations of these two countries. The Prime Minister of Mauritius, S. Ramgoolam, who is also the honorary chairman of the society, gave a speech as did G. Devid, leader of the Laborite Party. (29 Mar 80, p. 1)

Mozambique

International Nature and Applicability of Marxism-Leninism

(Summary) Marxism-Leninism possesses tremendous vital force, President S. Machel of the People's Republic of Mozambique emphasized at a press conference in Maputo. The president stressed the international nature of Marxism-Leninism. There can be no "African," "Latin American," or any other Marxism, he declared. There exists just one Marxist-Leninist revolutionary theory, which should be applied in each individual country with regard to the specific conditions of that country. (24 Mar 80, p. 5)

Republic of South Africa

Egyptian Transshipment of Arms

(Summary) The Sadat Regime of Egypt is actively involved as an intermediary in buying Western arms for the Republic of South Africa. Specifically, Egypt has purchased \$10 million worth of French small arms and ammunition which were redirected to South Africa for use by their infantry in their combat with Africa's patriotic forces. (17 Mar 80, p. 5)

Upper Volta

Medical Aid to Upper Volta

(Text) The Executive Committee of the Society of the Red Cross and Red Crescent of the USSR decided to render assistance to the Red Cross Society of Upper Volta. An aircraft loaded with medicines, dressings, and equipment for first aid stations was sent to the capital of that country, Ouagadougou. (26 Mar 80, p. 4)

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia

Brezhnev's Election Victory Congratulations

(Excerpt) To Comrade Robert Mugabe and Comrade Joshua Nkomo, leaders of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front. I warmly congratulate you on the great victory for the patriotic forces in the country's general elections. The future of the people of Zimbabwe and its further successful progress along the path of constructing a new life will depend to a great extent on the unity and cohesion of the patriotic forces and their ability to rebuff the intrigues of the Imperialists and racists. You can rest certain that, just as during the difficult years of struggle for independence, the Soviet Union is and will be on the side of the just cause of the people of Zimbabwe. (signed) L. Brezhnev. (6 Mar 80, p. 1)

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia

Commentary on Election

(Summary) Zimbabwe's patriotic forces have won a total victory in the parliamentary general elections. The country's African population has greeted the news of this with exultation. And the colonialists have had to grudgingly

acknowledge the success of Zimbabwe's patriotic forces. The obvious plans entertained by London and Washington for retaining a yoke on the country's indigenous population via their puppets have collapsed.

Zimbabwe's road to the future will not be easy. The most serious danger is external interference. Local racist elements, reluctant to admit defeat, are openly hoping for support from abroad. The attitude of South Africa and their Imperialist patrons is particularly threatening in this regard. (6 Mar 80, p. 5)

Zimbabwe-Rhodesia

Collectivization

(Excerpt) Robert Mugabe, head of the new Zimbabwe government based on the Patriotic Front, declared that he wanted all of Zimbabwe's people, especially in the rural areas, to participate in the determination of their future. In the countryside it is planned that the peasants will be collectivized and various committees formed that will be endowed with administrative powers. (13 Mar 80, p. 5)

SWAPO

SWAPO Military Actions

(Summary) Partisan detachments of the South-West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) successfully conducted two operations against South African military bases that are part of that nation's illegal occupation of Namibia. Two fortified camps of the racists were located in Enyama and Chagvena. According to the SWAPO military communique, more than 100 South African officers and soldiers were put out of action and four helicopters were destroyed. South Africa, meanwhile, with an army of 60,000 [sic] deployed in Namibia, intends to intensify its activities against the partisans. (8 Mar 80, p. 1)